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TO: State Licensed Community Health Centers

FROM: John Talarico, DO, MPH, Chief   
Center for Infectious Diseases  
Division of Communicable Disease Control, Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: Tdap Expansion Program-ARRA Funds

The federal government has made additional vaccine funds available as part of the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). This vaccine funding supports states and communities' ability to establish and maintain preventive health service programs to immunize individuals against vaccine-preventable diseases. This funding is designed to expand access to vaccines and vaccination services by augmenting current activities. As a result of this funding, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has initiated a short-term (likely through September 30, 2010) Tdap project to make additional Tdap (Tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) vaccine. The program was initially opened to birthing hospitals and we are happy to announce that the program is now being extended to Community Health Centers to immunize post-partum women and their close household contacts.

### **Pertussis Disease**

Four times as many pertussis cases have been reported in California in the first half of 2010 compared with the same time period last year and tragically five infants have died. Public health officials recommend pertussis vaccination for all persons who will have contact with infants. This strategy is known as "cocooning," i.e., putting a protective cocoon of immunity around the infant. Studies have shown that infants with pertussis are infected by their close contacts, at least half of the time. Therefore, vaccinating parents and other susceptible family members for pertussis is an important way to protect infants. Women may be vaccinated with Tdap before pregnancy, during pregnancy (in the second or third trimesters), or after giving birth. Fathers may be vaccinated at any time, but preferably before the birth of their baby.

### **Project Time-frame**

The Tdap Expansion Program will be a short-term project funded with limited ARRA vaccine dollars. Tdap vaccine doses will be purchased with these funds by CDPH and

made available to participating sites at no cost to vaccinate **eligible** adolescent and adult patients.

All vaccine purchases must be made by September 30, 2010; therefore participating sites must submit vaccine orders no later than September 1, 2010. Sites interested in immunizing a significant number of adults should take advantage of this opportunity and enroll as quickly as possible.

### **Eligible Sites and General Requirements**

To be eligible for participation in this program, the following requirements must be met:

1. Site must be a birth hospital or Community Health Center,
2. Have a protocol to offer Tdap to post-partum moms and household contacts as feasible,
3. Have on-site clinical staff experienced in administering vaccine to adults,
4. Have a plan for integration of vaccination into existing services,
5. Have an acceptable refrigerator-only unit(s) for the storage of vaccine that meets the Immunization Branch Vaccine Storage Equipment Requirement (<http://www.eziz.org/pages/storageandhandling.html>) and be willing to store, handle, and administer vaccine according to Immunization Branch guidelines, and
6. Agree to report the number of Tdap doses administered and current vaccine inventory (by vaccine type) on a monthly basis.

### **Concurrent Participation in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program**

Birth hospitals and Community Health Centers that are VFC (Vaccines for Children) providers may participate in the program by completing a simple enrollment form and signing the Tdap Expansion Program-Provider Agreement. Once this has been received and it has been confirmed that your facility is an active participant in the VFC Program, you will be sent a letter welcoming you to the Tdap Program and notifying you that you may begin ordering vaccine.

Sites that are not currently enrolled in the VFC program may also participate, but will need to complete the first time enrollment process. Once the application forms have been received and verified, a state field representative will schedule a site visit to confirm the storage units and to review project details and requirements. If your site is interested in participating in the regular VFC Program, your field representative will review the requirements for VFC during your site visit as well.

Please note that all new providers to VFC and the Tdap Expansion Program are required to have refrigerator-only units for the storage of vaccine. Please review the attached Buying Guide carefully for additional details. If your facility's unit(s) does not meet our requirements, you will be required to purchase a new unit(s) prior to being accepted into the program.

## **Vaccines Available**

Adult Tdap vaccines and formulations available through this project include:

- Tdap Vaccine - Boostrix 10 pack -1 dose vials; 5 pack -1 dose BD leur-lock syringe
- Tdap Vaccine - Adacel 10 pack -1 dose vial; 5 pack -1 dose TL syringes

## **Vaccine Orders**

Participating sites can submit vaccine orders by completing a Tdap Project Vaccine Order Form and faxing it to (877) 329-9832 (toll-free). All providers will order monthly for this project. As stated, we anticipate this program being in effect until September 30; Vaccine orders will not be processed unless vaccine doses administered since the last shipment and current Tdap vaccine inventory are included on the order form.

Clinics already enrolled in the VFC Program should submit Tdap requests for the immunization of post-partum women and their household contacts using the Tdap Expansion Form. Tdap vaccine requests for routine immunization of VFC-eligible children should continue to be submitted via the VFC order Form.

## **Patient Eligibility**

All post-partum women and fathers, mothers and fathers of NICU babies, and household contacts of post-partum women at participating sites are eligible to receive the Tdap vaccines. All patients should be screened for immunization records and history prior to the administration of vaccine. If patients have insurance that can be billed for the Tdap vaccine, please use private stock of vaccine and reserve this vaccine for uninsured patients. This vaccine is not available for staff members at hospitals or clinics.

Downloadable versions of the Tdap Expansion Program materials, including enrollment and vaccine order forms can be found on the 'Adult Tdap Vaccine Project' web page at [www.getimmunizedca.org](http://www.getimmunizedca.org).

If you have any questions relating to this project, do not hesitate to contact Maria Volk at [maria.volk@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:maria.volk@cdph.ca.gov).

Thank you for your efforts to prevent pertussis infections in Californians.

cc: CDPH Field Representatives  
Immunization Coordinators